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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

Confirmation No. 1160

Appln. No. : 09/774,112

Examiner: Lin Ye

Filed : January 31, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2612

For : A ZOOM LENS AND A MOVABLE LENS HOOD MOUNTING  
MECHANISM OF THE ZOOM LENS

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

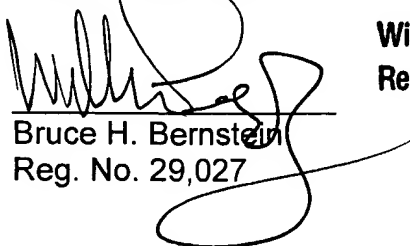
Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fees  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on February 24, 2005 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz  
Reg. No. 33,630

April 27, 2005  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191